

New Tools for Smart Salinity Management

The new “NRCS Salinity Management for Soil and Water” course being finalized by the National Employee Development Center will be piloted in May of this year at the USDA-Agricultural Research Laboratory, George E. Brown Jr. Salinity facility in Riverside, Calif. NRCS Water Management Specialist Mike Petersen in the Greeley Area Office and NRCS Resource Conservationist Lorenz Sutherland in the La Junta Area Office, members of the national development team of seven that developed the curriculum, the instructor’s guide, and the student course notebooks, met at the end of January in Fort Worth to finalize the instructor’s guide and manual. The course will be one of the first NRCS-NEDC courses to offer college credit for students who successfully complete the lecture, the outdoors and indoors lab work, and pass the exam.

Technical specialists successfully completing this course will be well equipped to work with growers in assessing salinity problems across the Western United States. For growers in Colorado’s South Platte Valley, it will provide the tools to make more accurate management decisions regarding water and salt management, which will be a big asset in better managing soil fertility, an important step in increasing crop productivity in a diminishing environment.

For information contact Mike Petersen at NRCS Area 2 Greeley, Colorado,
Michael.petersen@co.usda.gov